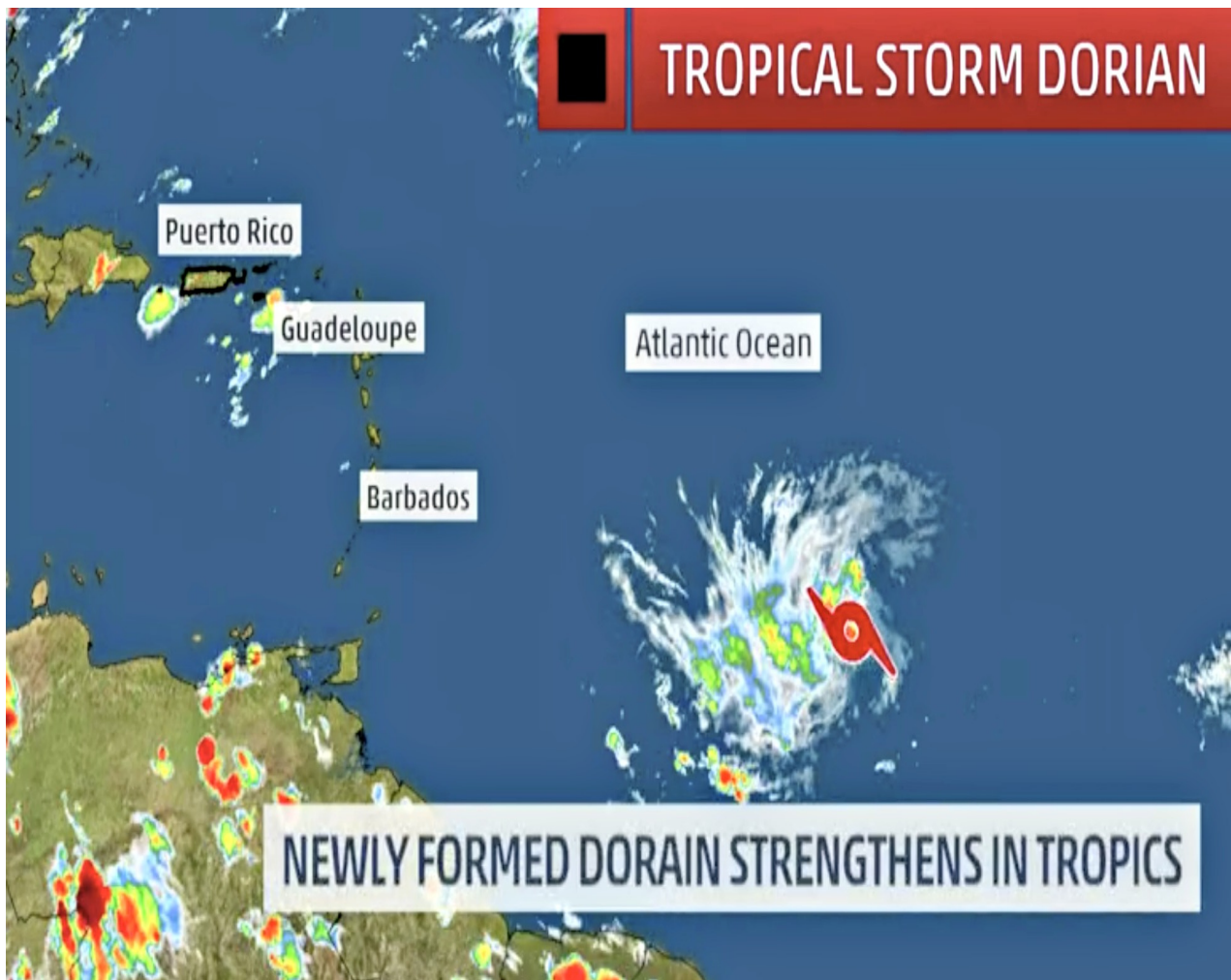


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Tropical Storm Dorian Takes Aim At Caribbean; Hurricane Watches May Be Issued By Sunday

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A fast-developing system in the Atlantic grew into a disturbance, then a depression and into a named storm in two days, and the system -- now Tropical Storm Dorian -- is expected to grow near hurricane strength as it approaches the Lesser Antilles Tuesday, according to the National Hurricane Center's 5:00 p.m. forecast.

According to N.H.C., the 5:00 p.m. forecast may be too soon to determine the specific timing or magnitude of impacts in the Lesser Antilles, but tropical storm or hurricane watches may be needed for a portion of the area by Sunday.

Tropical Storm Dorian, according to N.H.C., was located near latitude 10.7 North, longitude 49.1 West. Dorian is moving toward the west near 12 mph (19 km/h) and this general motion is expected to continue tonight. A turn toward the west-northwest is forecast on Sunday, and that motion is expected to continue through Tuesday. On the forecast track, the tropical cyclone is expected to be near the central Lesser Antilles on Tuesday.

Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 40 mph (65 km/h) with higher gusts, N.H.C. said. Gradual strengthening is forecast during the next few days, and Dorian could be near hurricane strength when it approaches the central Lesser Antilles on Tuesday.

Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles (35 km) from the center. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1008 mb (29.77 inches).